Cultural Resources

Fort Wainwright, Alaska

Environmental Officer Course

2011

Outline

I. FWA History
II. Regulations
III. USAG FWA's Cultural Resources
IV. Responsibilities

FWA's Historic Importance

Fort Wainwright began as Ladd Field in 1940. It was a Cold Weather Test Detachment built to test military planes and gear in a subarctic environment.

Though they successfully conducted cold-weather testing throughout the 1940s, Ladd Field quickly took on new globally important missions as World War II began. During the war, Ladd Field was a transportation depot, a staging field for the Aleutian campaigns and a commercial air center, but most importantly, as early as 1942, Ladd Field began to support the Lend Lease operations. The United States agreed to send the Soviet Union planes and other supplies to fight the Nazis on the Russian front. Ladd Field was the main transfer point of the Lend Lease's Northwest Staging Route. American pilots would ferry planes from Montana using small airfields constructed in Canada and Alaska. At Ladd Field, the American planes would be winterized, painted with the Soviets' red star and given to Soviet pilots to continue the journey to the Russian front. Between 1942 and 1945, 7,926 planes were transferred to Russian pilots at Ladd Field. To facilitate the transfer, more than 300 Russians were stationed at Ladd Field throughout the war.

After World War II, Ladd Field was transferred to the newly formed Air Force, and this military installation which had been an example of American-Russian cooperation during WWII became one of the first outposts of the Cold War. Reconnaissance squadrons flew missions gathering information on the Soviet Union, while fighter squadrons were assigned to Ladd Field to protect the state from potential Russian invasion. In 1961, Ladd Field Air Force Base was transferred to the Army and renamed Fort Wainwright.

FWA's Prehistoric Importance

The current archaeological record on USAG FWA's managed lands represents all of the recognized prehistoric cultures of the Alaskan Interior. Sites in the Donnelly Training Area contribute to scientific understanding of the Denali Complex of the American Paleoarctic Tradition, one of the oldest archaeological components in Alaska (12,000 years before present). The American Paleoarctic Tradition can be traced back to its origins in Siberia more than 15,000 years before present.

This archaeological record offers excellent potential to contribute to our knowledge of prehistoric land use patterns and potentially contribute to a broader regional prehistoric context.

Regulations

National legislation directs federal agencies, including the Army, to manage cultural resources while performing their missions

- National Historic Preservation Act
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act
- Native American Graves and Repatriation Act

National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106

NHPA's Section 106 requires review of all proposed federal actions which could potentially affect historic properties.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the state historic preservation officer, interested groups and Alaska Native tribes have the opportunity to participate in this review and consultation.

Historic properties are defined as those which meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places.

Archeological Resources Protection Act

- Artifact collection and site disturbance can result in large scale theft of public heritage. Archaeological sites are damaged whenever arrowheads, flakes, bone fragments and other artifacts are disturbed or remove. Scientist can learn from archaeological sites when artifacts are in an original context - that is, the placement of each artifact and its relationship with other artifacts and soils. When artifacts are removed or soil disturbed, information is lost forever.

- Theft of artifacts from public lands is illegal. ARPA specifically prescribes criminal penalties and possible jail time for persons found intentionally damaging or removing archaeological material from federal lands.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

- Cultural sites may possess great significance for many Alaska Natives. It is important to respect the past and the living cultures that hold such sites to be significant. Burials are specifically protected under NAGPR

Cultural Resources include:

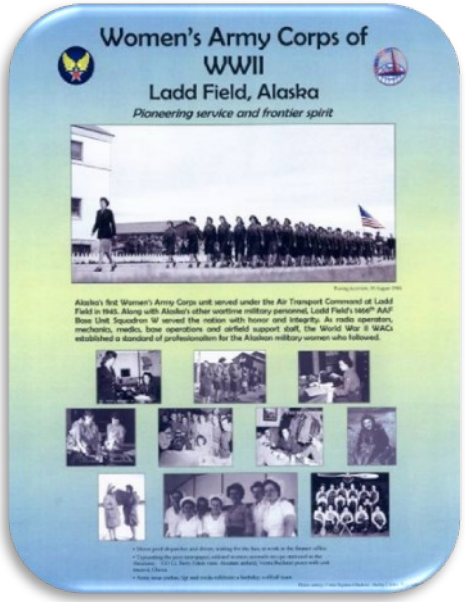
- Archaeological Sites
- Historic Buildings and Structures
- Historic Objects
- Traditional Cultural Properties

FWA's Cultural Resources

Ladd Field National Historic Landmark (World War II)
Ladd Air Force Base Historic District (Cold War)
Over 650 Archaeological Sites

FWA's Cultural Resources Program

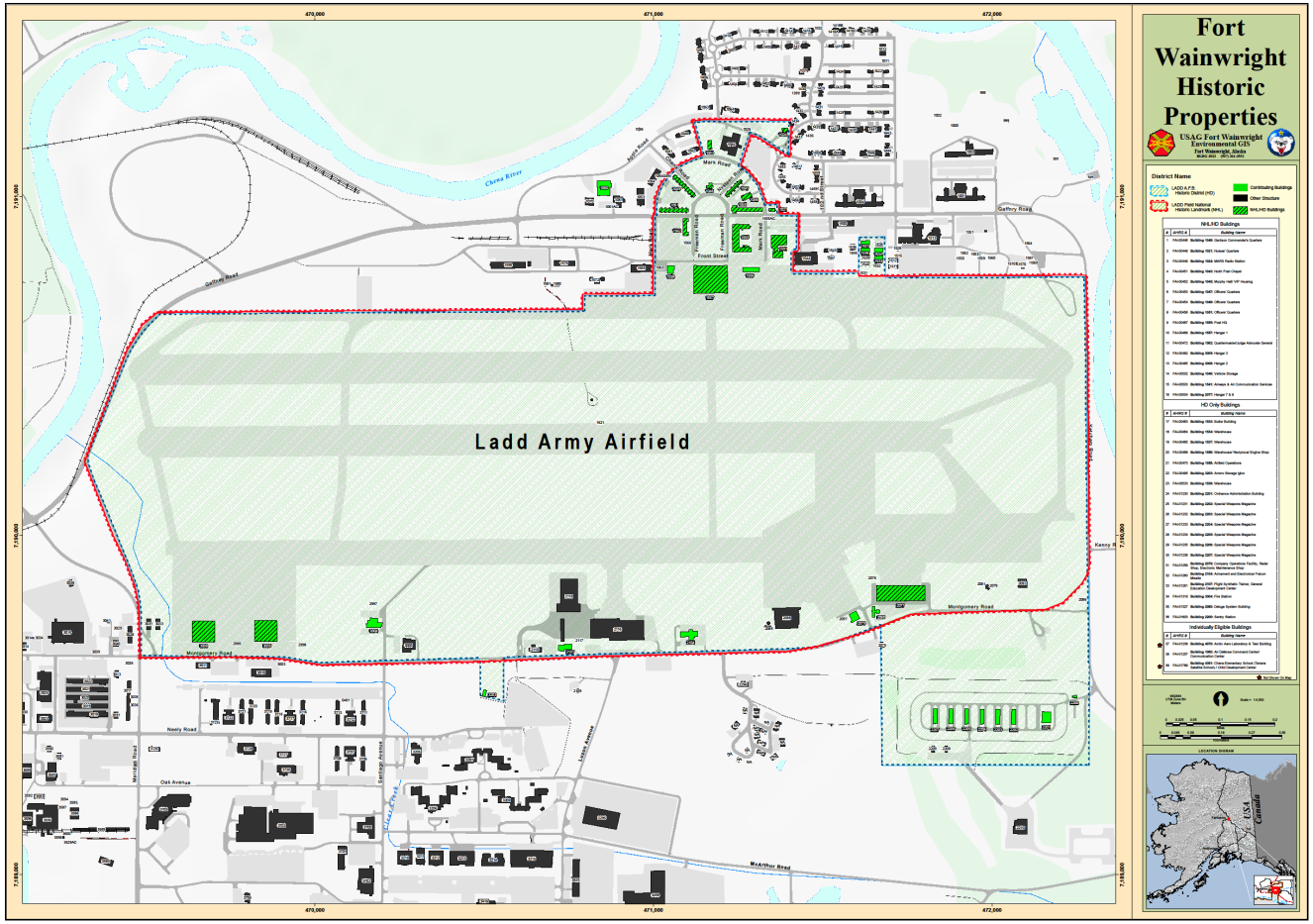
- Project Review (Section 106 compliance)
- Historic property inventories
- Management plans
- Mitigation oversight



NATIONAL REGISTER BULLETIN
Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties that Have Achieved Significance Within the Past Fifty Years
How to Complete the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form

LADD FIELD NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
FORT WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA
Our World War II Heritage
The Airfield
The Missions
Ladd Field National Historic Landmark – 2002

FWA Historic Buildings



Protecting Cultural Resources

- Off Road Maneuver
  - Activities by these vehicles in summer have increased potential to damage or destroy archaeological resources.
    - Ensure you stay in permitted areas
- Report vandalism of cultural resources to the Cultural Resources Manager (361-3002)
- Digging in training areas
  - Dig Permit
  - Discovering artifact
    - Cease ground-disturbing operations
    - Immediately report the finding to the Cultural Resources Manager
- Facilities Maintenance of Historic Buildings and Structures
  - Must be done by DPW
  - Cannot alter important features of historic properties

EO Responsibility

The EO must be able to provide unit level awareness for items of cultural significance.

END

INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND

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"Sustain, Support and Defend"